

A complete listing of all claims in this application is set forth below.

1. (Previously presented) A method for managing image files in a host system comprising:

- identifying an image file stored in secondary storage for a host system;
- comparing file metadata for the identified image file to a downgrade threshold;
- downgrading the identified image file in response to the comparison of the file metadata to the downgrade threshold;
- storing the downgraded file in the secondary storage of the host system; and
- storing the identified image file in tertiary storage of the host system, the tertiary storage of the host system having an access time that is greater than the access time for the secondary storage of the host system.

Claim 2 (canceled).

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, the downgrading of the identified image file further comprising:

- performing a lossless compression on the identified image file to generate the downgraded file.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, the downgrading of the identified image file further comprising:

- performing a lossy compression on the identified image file to generate the downgraded file.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, the downgrading of the identified image file further comprising:

- reducing resolution of the identified image file to generate the downgraded file.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, the downgrading of the identified image file further comprising:

reducing pixel size in the identified image file to generate the downgraded file.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, the downgrading of the identified image file further comprising:

converting a color image from one color format to another color format that requires less data to represent color in the identified image file to generate the downgraded file.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, the downgrading of the identified image file further comprising:

converting a color image to a color palette version of the color image to generate the downgraded file.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, the downgrading of the identified image file further comprising:

combining a plurality of downgrade operations to reduce the size of the identified image file to generate the downgraded file.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, the downgrading of the identified image file further comprising:

retrieving a full resolution version of the identified image file from tertiary storage; and

performing a downgrade operation on the full resolution version of the identified image file to generate the downgraded file.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, the comparison of the file metadata to the downgrade threshold including:

comparing file metadata to a file access frequency threshold.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, the comparison of the file metadata to the downgrade threshold including:

comparing file metadata to a last access time threshold.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, the comparison of the file metadata to the downgrade threshold including:

comparing file metadata to a classification threshold.

15. (Previously presented) A system for managing image files in a host system comprising:

a file data volume for storing file metadata that corresponds to image files stored in a secondary storage for a host system;

a file selector for retrieving file metadata from the file data volume and comparing the retrieved metadata to at least one downgrade threshold to identify an image file stored in the secondary storage of the host system for downgrading;

a file reducer for downgrading the identified image file; and

a file controller for generating file metadata for storage in the file data volume and for storing the downgraded file in the secondary storage of the host system and for storing the identified image file in tertiary storage of the host system, the tertiary storage for the host system having an access time that is greater than the access time for the secondary storage of the host system.

Claim 16 (Canceled).

17. (Original) The system of claim 15 wherein the file reducer includes a compressor for compressing the identified image file.

18. (Original) The system of claim 15 wherein the file reducer includes a color reducer for converting a color image from one color format to another color format that uses less data to represent color.

19. (Previously presented) The system of claim 15 wherein the file reducer includes an image resolution reducer for reducing resolution of the identified image file.

20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 15 wherein the file reducer includes a pixel size reducer for reducing a number of bits to represent a pixel in the identified image file.